

Auditor-General of South Africa

uMgungundlovu District
Municipality - Audit report 2014-15

Report of the auditor-general to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature and the Council on uMgungundlovu District Municipality

Report on the financial statements

Introduction

1. I have audited the financial statements of the uMgungundlovu District Municipality set out on pages xx to xx, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget information with actual information for the year then ended as well as the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Accounting officer's responsibility for the financial statements

2. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2014 (Act No. 10 of 2014) (DoRA), and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor-general's responsibility

3. My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements, and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
4. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the municipality's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

6. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the uMgungundlovu District Municipality as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and DoRA.

Emphasis of matters

I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Material water losses and impairments

7. As disclosed in note 23 to the financial statements, a material impairment to the amount of R65,92 million (2014: R39,46 million) was incurred as a result of the write-off of irrecoverable trade debtors.
8. As disclosed in note 33 to the financial statements, a material loss to the amount of R32,87 million (2014: R29,95 million) was incurred as a result of water losses.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

9. In accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected objectives presented in the annual performance report, compliance with legislation and internal control. The objective of my tests was to identify reportable findings as described under each subheading but not to gather evidence to express assurance on these matters. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion or conclusion on these matters.

Predetermined objectives

10. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the following objectives: to provide access to sustainable quality drinking water and sanitation services; to improve access to basic levels of water; and to improve access to basic levels of sanitation, presented in the municipality's annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2015.
11. I evaluated the reported performance information against the overall criteria of usefulness and reliability.
12. I evaluated the usefulness of the reported performance information to determine whether it was presented in accordance with the National Treasury's annual reporting principles and whether the reported performance was consistent with the planned objectives. I further performed tests to determine whether indicators and targets were well defined, verifiable, specific, measurable, time bound and relevant, as required by the National Treasury's *Framework for managing programme performance information* (FMPPI).
13. I assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete. I did not identify any material findings on the

usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the objectives as stated in paragraph 10 above.

Additional matter

14. Although I identified no material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the selected objectives, I draw attention to the following matter:

Unaudited supplementary information

15. The supplementary information set out on pages xx to xx does not form part of the annual performance report and is presented as additional information. I have not audited this information and, accordingly, I do not report thereon.

Compliance with legislation

16. I performed procedures to obtain evidence that the municipality had complied with applicable legislation regarding financial matters, financial management and other related matters. I did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with specific matters in key legislation, as set out in the general notice issued in terms of the PAA.

Internal control

17. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with legislation. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

Other reports

Investigations

18. The municipality conducted four investigations covering incidents identified during prior financial years. These incidents related to a culpable homicide charge resulting from a car collision involving a municipal vehicle; alleged theft of water meters and conducting illegal connections; unauthorised use of municipal vehicles; and the abuse of overtime. All these cases were satisfactorily concluded during the financial year.

Auditor-General

Pietermaritzburg

27 November 2015



AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

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